

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-15. (Canceled)

16. (New) An image processing apparatus for converting an input image signal into a control signal including a plurality of output color factors of an image forming apparatus, said image processing apparatus comprising:

an object determining part determining a type and attributes of a drawing object from the input image signal;

a background color information extracting part extracting background color information corresponding to a determination result of the object determining part from the input image signal; and

a color converting part conducting a color conversion with respect to the input image signal based on the type and attributes of the drawing object and the background color information.

17. (New) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein the background color information is an average value of a background color in an area where the drawing object is formed.

18. (New) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein the type of the drawing object is one of character code, graphic code, and raster graphic data.

19. (New) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein the attributes of the drawing object include at least one of a type, a size, and a thickness.

20. (New) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein the color converting part includes:

a color conversion table storing part storing a plurality of color conversion tables;

a selecting part referring to the type and attributes of the drawing object and the background color information and selecting one color conversion table from the plurality of the color conversion tables; and

a compensation calculating part conducting a compensation calculation with respect to the image data based on the color conversion table selected by the selecting part.

21. (New) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the plurality of the color conversion tables includes:

a first color conversion table converting in a state retaining brightness of an image signal;

a second color conversion table converting in a state retaining saturation of the image signal; and

a third color conversion table converting the background color.

22. (New) An image processing apparatus for converting an input image signal into a control signal including a plurality of output color factors of an image forming apparatus, said image processing apparatus comprising:

an object type determining part determining a type of drawing object from the input image signal;

a background color information extracting part extracting background color information corresponding to a determination result of the object type determining part from the input image signal;

a color compensating part conducting a compression mapping from the input image signal to a color reproduction range of the image forming apparatus based on the type of the drawing object and the background color information; and

a color converting part converting data in which the compression mapping is conducted within the color reproduction range of the image forming apparatus.

23. (New) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein the background color information is an average value of a background color in an area where the drawing object is formed.

24. (New) The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 22, wherein the color compensating part conducts the compression mapping within a range of a direction storing the saturation from a direction in which a hue of an image signal is constant and brightness is stored.

25. (New) An image processing method for converting an input image signal into a control signal including a plurality of output color factors of an image forming apparatus, said image processing method comprising the steps of:

(a) determining a type and attributes of a drawing object from the input image signal;

(b) extracting background color information corresponding to a determination result of the step (a); and

(c) conducting a color conversion with respect to the input image signal based on the type and attributes of the drawing object and the background color.

26. (New) The image processing method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the background color information is an average value of a background color in an area where the drawing object is formed.

27. (New) The image processing method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the type of the drawing object is one of character code, graphic code, and raster graphic data.

28. (New) The image processing method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the attributes of the drawing object include at least one of a type, a size, and a thickness.

29. (New) The image processing method as claimed in claim 25, wherein the step (c) includes:

(d) storing a plurality of color conversion tables;

(e) referring to the type and attributes of the drawing object and the background color information and selecting one color conversion table from the plurality of the color conversion tables; and

(f) conducting a compensation calculation with respect to the image data based on the color conversion table selected in the step (e).

30. (New) An image processing method for converting an input image signal into a control signal including a plurality of output color factors of an image forming apparatus, said image processing method comprising the steps of:

(a) determining a type of drawing object from the input image signal;

(b) extracting background color information corresponding to a determination result of the step (a) from the input image signal;

(c) conducting a compression mapping from the input image signal to a color reproduction range of the image forming apparatus based on the type of the drawing object and the background color information; and

(d) converting data in which the compression mapping is conducted within the color reproduction range of the image forming apparatus.

31. (New) The image processing method as claimed in claim 30, wherein the background color information is an average value of a background color in an area where the drawing object is formed.

32. (New) The image processing method as claimed in claim 30, wherein the step (c) conducts the compression mapping within a range of a direction storing the saturation from a direction in which a hue of an image signal is constant and brightness is stored.